

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel
Meeting Summary

February 26, 2008
NWIFC Conference Center, Lacey

Science Panel Members Present:

- Joel Baker
- Guy Gelfenbaum
- Robert Johnston
- Jan Newton
- Timothy Quinn
- Frank Shipley
- John Stark
- Usha Varanasi
- Katharine Wellman

Leadership Council Members Present:

- Martha Kongsgaard
- Steve Sakuma
- Diana Gale
- Dan O'Neal

Staff:

- David Dicks, Executive Director
- Martha Neuman, Action Agenda Director
- Cullen Stephenson, Deputy Director
- Sarah Brace, Science Manager
- Scott Redman
- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Science Panel
- Terry Wright, Special Assistant to the Tribes

*It is intended that this summary be used along with notebook materials provided for the meeting.
A full recording of this meeting is retained by Puget Sound Partnership as the formal record.*

Action Items:

- Approval of January 25, 2008, and February 15, 2008, Meeting Summaries

Meeting Summary:

- Strategic Science Plan and Biennial Work Plan Development – discussion
- Action Agenda – update
- General Panel Business

10:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER – David Dicks

David Dicks opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

David reported that Leadership Council Chair Bill Ruckelshaus plans to attend the Science Panel meetings but is on vacation this week so unable to make it to this meeting.

David then provided an overview of the Partnership and how the Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and Science Panel all fit together.

SCIENCE PANEL BASICS

Election of Officers

David Dicks reported that on the Science Panel February 15 conference call nominations were taken for the Science Panel chair and a process for an electronic vote was agreed to. Through this process, Joel Baker was selected as the first Science Panel chair but that the nomination and election needs to be formalized during the public meeting.

Usha Varanasi then **MOVED** to elect Joel Baker as the Science Panel chair. Jan Newton **SECONDED** the motion. The Panel **APPROVED** Joel Baker as the Science Panel chair.

Usha Varanasi then **MOVED** to elect Jan Newton as the Science Panel vice-chair. Katharine Wellman **SECONDED** the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor. The Panel then **APPROVED** Jan Newton as the Science Panel vice chair.

Joel Baker took his place as chair and asked everyone introduce themselves.

Summary Minutes from the January 25 and February 15 Meetings

Robert Johnston asked to table approval of the meetings summaries until Panel members had an opportunity to review the summaries after revisions had been made.

Share Point Site

Panel members asked for clarification on the use of the Share Point site. It was pointed out that the meeting information posted on this site was inaccurate. Joel reminded the Panel members that everything should go through Tammy Owings but that staff will check into the Share Point site to make sure it is coordinated for everyone. For now the Web site is the best place for meeting information. Scott Redman will give the Panel a briefing on the Share Point site this afternoon.

Agenda

Joel reviewed the proposed agenda and said the Science Panel needs to develop the Strategic Science Plan and Monitoring Program. He proposed brainstorming the

Strategic Science Program and Biennial Work Plan needs during the morning session and focusing on the Monitoring Program in the afternoon session. Ending the day with a discussion on schedules and retreat options.

STRATEGIC SCIENCE PROGRAM AND BIENNIAL WORK PLAN

Sarah Brace presented this agenda item. (See meeting materials for details.)

The Panel discussed the Strategic Science Plan and Biennial Work Plan and how all the work fits together. The Biennial Work Plan is due June 1. As time goes on, this plan is meant to fit with the Action Agenda and various budgeting processes (state, local, federal, tribal, etc.) but the timing doesn't quite line up for this first round so this Biennial Plan will be more transitional.

David Dicks talked about the state agency budget process, explaining the Action Agenda is due on September 1 is to fit into that process. After this round, we will then need to make adjustments to fit with the federal, local, tribal, etc. budgeting processes. What we really need is a strategic science program that will work.

Panel members discussed keeping the Science Panel at a higher level and not getting tied to tightly to agency budgets.

The current biennial plan that was developed by the Puget Sound Action Team will continue to be in place for the 2007-2009 biennium. The new plan will cover the 2009-2011 time period.

The Panel discussed whether they are developing the Strategic Science Plan for the Puget Sound Partnership or for the Puget Sound. David Dicks noted that we don't need random acts of science and the Panel should think big. The Plan should be for the whole Sound and all the entities.

Joel asked everyone to brainstorm what the Panel members see as characteristics and components of a successful science program.

Characteristics:

- Leads to better understanding of ecosystem processes
- Integrates social, economic, and scientific disciplines
- Builds off what is known and what is not known (gaps) – builds on existing knowledge to find the gaps
- Self-critical and adaptable
- Flexible
- Leads to better management of ecosystems (connection to the policy makers)
- Needs on-going give and take with policy makers to reach consensus
- Easily communicated to public and policy makers (translation)

- Explicit buy in by policy makers (cooperative management CMER is the best model at this time)
- Balance of management-focused science as well as basic understanding of the system science (basic and applied science; short-term and long-term perspectives)
- Shared strategy recovery plan (another good example)
- Builds capacity for learning over a long time period (start educating youth to be scientists)
- Development of application tools and technology (modeling)
- Encourages easy access and long term access to data
- Account for changing baseline when designing studies – can't be the same static information
- Respected and reliable knowledge (peer review)
- Responsive and relevant
- Defines what you believe is a viable (healthy) ecosystem – things change over time (stationarity is dead)
- Level of prioritization – a way to prioritize
- Encourages innovation (think outside the box), risk taking
- Program considers users of information. Need to think about what people care about (what do people care about?)

Components:

- Compliance monitoring (do we weigh in on these programs, are they working?) validation, and effectiveness (include all in monitoring program?)
- Rules aren't the only way to get compliance – do we look at those options?
- Monitoring effectiveness of management/program – is this a component of our program (social science)?
- Tools for evaluations such as modeling – this is how to get to the impacts without getting into the policy?
- Scientifically based performance measures
- Prioritization process
- Educational aspect (the public as well as the legislators)
- Have clearly defined goals – ranking and priorities
- System to allow for continual input
- Good data management program (critical component)

What to Avoid:

- Not get so attached to the program that we can't make changes
- Taking too much ownership – can be wrong
- Don't pretend that there is certainty
- Too insular – not an open dynamic process – make sure there is continual input from the outside
- Bad data management systems

- Relying on volunteer hours (SP members and staff working unfunded mandates) and be realistic on work load – be realistic on what the cost is
- Not integrated
- Not having realistic expectations on getting results (will take time to start getting results)
- Linking science to decision maker's timeline (political terms)

Leadership Council members Steve Sakuma and Diana Gale joined the meeting during the morning brainstorming. David Dicks reported that members of the Leadership Council plan to attend as many Science Panel meetings possible. They want to attend to be able to understand what the Science Panel is doing.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Doug Myers, People for Puget Sound was encouraged after listening to the February 15 conference call, today has been a very productive meeting. He reported that there are many science programs along with some of the salmon science plans that could be retooled to meet the ecosystem needs. He sees this group as being able to validate regulatory programs and is in the unique place to be the independent review and accountability group. He believes the Panel is on the right track with the brainstorming lists.

Tom Mumford, Department of Natural Resources, didn't hear the word independent this morning and wants to instill the importance of this group to be independent. There are already science plans in place and the Science Panel should look at this information in developing its Plan.

Panel members agreed with the need for independence and that there are already plans available that can be used to develop this Plan; the Panel doesn't want to reinvent the wheel.

The Panel discussed the need to develop a conceptual model and process for public comments. As the Science Plan is developed they will need to keep looking back to the list of characteristics and components. This is a big job and the Panel needs to figure out how to proceed, what resources are available, and who should be involved to get the Strategic Science Plan in place. The Panel decided to start with a strawdog outline developed by a subcommittee.

Over the next few meetings the Panel would like to:

- Look at ways to incorporate lessons learned by getting briefings on existing plans, interview those involved with those plans on what went well and what didn't
- Look at the Puget Sound Partnership Topic Forum process to see if this is would be the process the Panel should use to develop its plan. The Topic Forum has a

contractor identify a core team to write the plan and then will have the Science Panel review. The Panel believes this would be a way to keep the independence and credibility in the process

- Start the Plan by building around existing information including the 6 goals in the Action Agenda and information from Partnership 1.0

For the next regular Science Panel meeting the Panel will decide on what should be in the Strategic Science Plan and outline.

Before the next regular meeting the Panel needs to:

- Identify other plans to refer to when developing the plan
- Set up a conference call to discuss components
- Have a subcommittee draft the outline

After the April 15 meeting, the Leadership Council and Science Panel need to have an interaction.

ACTION AGENDA STATUS AND OVERVIEW – Scott Redman and Sarah Brace (See meeting materials for details.)

Scott reviewed the presentation that was used at the February 20 Workshop. The Workshop was focused on what data sources are available and what good parameters would be. The goal of this workshop was to get feedback on the proposed status and threats indicators. Although the workshop was supposed to be a peer review process, the work was not ready for peer review; the meeting was held sooner than it should have been. There will be another meeting and this will get peer reviewed. The Science Panel will get the information for review. Usha let the Panel know that Mary Ruckelshaus will provide them with a summary of this workshop.

The Panel discussed the need to decide what Peer Review really is and the process the Panel should use to do Peer Review. They will discuss this at an upcoming meeting.

Some of the Science Panel members would like to be included in the work Mary Ruckelshaus is doing on the risk assessments and asked how to let Mary know if they are interested. They were informed that Mary will be sending a letter out explaining the process and Tammy will get this to the Science Panel members. In the meantime, Panel members can contact Mary directly to let her know if they are interested.

Sarah Brace reviewed a handout on the provisional indicators work. There will be a technical workgroup meeting on March 17 and 18. Sarah will ask Sandie to provide the March 17 and 18 workshop information to the Science Panel.

The Panel discussed indicators and the need to get to the final set of indicators for a complicated system, five indicators may not be enough. Need just the indicators that tell the story and are compelling to the public.

Talked about the difference between the indicators used to manage the system and the smaller subset to be used to communicate to the public; they may not be the same set of indicators.

Trina Wellman and Bob Johnston will plan to attend the March 17 and 18 workshop.

MONITORING PROGRAM – Scott Redman and Sarah Brace (See meeting materials for details.)

Scott reviewed the six ecosystem goals and reported that the Topic Forums are organized around the goals. A number of them roll up from Puget Sound Partnership work plan objectives. The forums have had questions identified as either S or P questions – Science or Policy.

Joel asked to have the list of Topic Forum leads be provided to the Science Panel as well as the meeting dates when set. Science Panel members can then attend the forums of interest.

The Panel discussed concern that the Ecosystem Coordination Board will see the Topic Forum information before the Science Panel. Staff will need to figure out how to get the information to the Science Panel for review and comment before the April 11 Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting.

Scott noted the cross topic synthesis meeting would be a meeting all members of the Science Panel should attend. The Panel discussed having individual members attend the six topic forum workshop meetings. The Panel agreed that it would be good and helpful to have members attend these meetings, but not to be a substitution to bringing the information for review back to the whole Science Panel.

The Science Panel Liaisons identified for the six topics:

- Human Health – Usha and Trina
- Quality of life – Trina and Usha
- Species and Biodiversity – Frank and Bob
- Habitat – Tim and Guy
- Water Quantity – Joel and Bob
- Water Quality – Jan

Bob would also like to be involved with the Risk Assessment and Indicators work and will plan to attend the meeting on March 17 and 18.

Action Area Meetings

There will be nine meetings to cover the seven Action Areas. The meetings started on Monday, February 25, and will continue for the next couple weeks. The plan is to have another round of Action Area workshops after the Topic Forum workshops.

MONITORING PROGRAM – Scott Redman and Sarah Brace (See meeting materials for details.)

The Panel discussed the different kinds of monitoring and definitions. There is monitoring going on around the Sound but it is not necessarily what is needed.

Scott outlined what he believes should go into an adaptive management and accountability monitoring program with the scope/content, functions, institutional arrangements, and how all this fits together.

Sarah talked about the Monitoring Consortium and the wide range of entities involved in this group.

Joel Baker reported that he has sat in on some of these meetings and has been very impressed with the level of participation. He has found that there is:

- Clearly a perception of a need for revamping monitoring program
- Monitoring Consortium is on the right track

The Panel discussed not using the word “monitoring” for this process but to use something more descriptive of what the Panel wants to accomplish, which is “Track Progress.”

The Panel then spent time brainstorming the Characteristics and Components of Tools for Tracking Progress.

Characteristics:

- Date quality objectives and QA/QC concerns are clear
- Not static – need to use the data – make it creative enough so people are interested in information – ensure long-term perspective
- On path to develop monitoring program using the four types that give us the best chance to do the most things for the least amount of money (would add modeling also)
- Connection between research, modeling, and monitoring (creative and dynamic)
- Long-term
- Sustained
- QA/QC
- D-map that is accessible (accessible data and data base)

- Distributed but integrated (Jan's personal opinion); good to have diversity of who is providing the data but still have access to the data at one point
- Standardized
- Not duplicative
- Start with specific questions
- Nested information that connects (will depend on what level you are wanting the information for – region wide, watershed, neighborhood)
- Has to matter to the community
- May need to monitor things that aren't important now
- Integration between disciplines and across spatial scales (HC – UW and WDFW are working together and integrating information are probably other smaller scale examples but not at a Region-wide scale)
- Monitoring should be part of information feedback loop (adaptive management)

Components:

- Status trends, effectiveness, compliance, validating, and modeling are part of strategic science program
- Research, monitoring and modeling are all parts of the science plan
- Specific questions to answer (start with a clear question)
- Start with management question and then work from there
- Link to six goals
- Connection with policy
- Monitoring informs success/failure of action. Link to goals
- New benchmarks/targets from policy (to drive action)
- Link natural science to the goods and services piece (integrate ecosystem science information with goods and services)
- Behavioral science integrated with goods and services information

The Panel talked about the management side of monitoring and the need to link the monitoring needs with the mandates and regulations. The policy-makers need to be on the same page. Cullen Stephenson asked how he can help: is it a meeting with the Leadership Council, legislators, or others? The Panel wasn't sure they could answer Cullen's questions at this meeting but this needs to be worked on so they are sure of starting off in the right direction.

The need for public education was discussed in the morning session. The more people understand how actions will affect them the more they will be able to involved and support the solutions.

Policy makers are waiting for the Science Panel to give scientific guidance. The focus on accountability may work to our favor as now that is a link to many of the state's actions. Another important link is the link between the Leadership Council and the Science Panel. The Leadership Council's constituency is the whole Puget Sound region and will be able to work toward the same goal as the Science Panel.

Karen Dinicola from Ecology talked about what the Monitoring Consortium is doing and how they are wanting:

- Transparent decision-making
- Direct link with the Partnership
- Peer Review
- Stable funding

Karen would like to provide a briefing on the Monitoring Consortium at the April 15 Science Panel meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Heather Trim, People for Puget Sound, would like to have public comment period times after each agenda item. She talked about the role of the Science Panel and her concern with the Panel members being on the subcommittees. She believes this would be a public perception problem and asked Panel members to reconsider being part of the subcommittees. Concerning monitoring she would use the word assessment. When developing the plan, the Panel needs to get all the facts together first so there isn't any question about the facts in the plan.

Doug Myers, People for Puget Sound, had four points on monitoring: there are standardized monitoring standards but they haven't been used in a standardized way; a lot of monitoring is owned by the community and we may need to adjust the scale to the Action Area; there is a nondegradation clause in all the different regulatory mandates and that should be enough for policy-makers; and there is need to monitor social trends.

Steve Ralph, consultant for the Partnership, noted that although the Endangered Species Act was the only regulatory process mentioned, there are other acts that provide the authority to use regulations.

Ron Shultz, Washington Conservation Commission, explained what the Conservation Commission is and how they are trying to synchronize the work of the Partnership with the work of the Conservation Districts in the region. During discussions he didn't hear the question "Is PS healthy?" which is the characteristics to look at for 2020. So may be helpful to look at this question in writing up the science program. As a policy person, he believes that many times science and policy should stay apart since you don't want to compromise findings by getting linked in the policy issues.

Ken Currens, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and assigned to work for Partnership on monitoring, talked about some of the work that has gone on in the past, including the Independent Science Panel's (ISP) work done with salmon recovery. He encouraged the Panel to build on work that has been done in the past.

Tom Mumford, Department of Natural Resources, will the Panel with the information he has on ethics and the public perspective. He reminded the Panel that they need to be careful about the public perspective.

The Panel discussed the public comments and how to capture and deal with the comments on appearance of independence. It was agreed that the Panel should back away from being part of the subcommittees. They decided that it would be okay to be a liaison, in a position of observing, asking clarifying questions, and bringing back information to the rest of the Panel, but not to be in a position of leading a group or writing the papers. The Panel discussed the appearance of ethics and would error on the side of caution as transparency is critical for this process.

Ken Currens provided input from his experience on the ISP and explained how they helped with the salmon plans but were still able to keep an independent side.

The Panel will need to develop and adopt a conflict of interest policy.

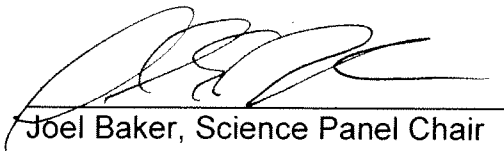
PANEL BASICS

The Panel will:

- Arrange for a conference call meeting in the next day or two to discuss conflict of interest
- Arrange a second conference call in the next week or 10 days to discuss the draft strategic science plan and identify a subgroup to work on the components (Sarah Brace will develop a strawdog to start the discussions.)
- Look at other options for dates for the Science Panel Retreat but hold May 1 and 2 if earlier dates can't be found
- Plan to have day and a half meetings in the future – next meeting will be April 15 and 16.

5:11 p.m. ADJOURN

Science Panel Approval


Joel Baker, Science Panel Chair

4/15/2008
Date

Next Meeting: April 15 and 16, WSU Puyallup